

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the same-numbered claims in the application:

1-16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method of profiling an entity, said method comprising:
retrieving information from at least one information source using said entity as a search
criteria;

clustering the retrieved information to identify contexts related to said entity, wherein
said contexts are represented by a set of documents;

retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least one
information source;

selecting features from the information retrieved at both of the retrieving steps to identify
concepts associated with said entity within each identified context; ~~and~~

structuring the identified concepts within said each identified context by classifying said
identified concepts into exactly four classification sets: and[[,]]

ranking said identified concepts within each set.

wherein the contexts are identified by finding a set of the words or phrases that occur
frequently with said entity and that mutually do not appear together in documents in the
information source[[.]]. and

wherein said contexts are identified by finding prominent nodes, that comprise said
entity, in an ontology or a taxonomy.

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18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of structuring the identified concepts is performed by classifying said identified concepts into at least one of a set comprising concepts that are exclusive to said entity, a set comprising concepts that are exclusive to the identified context, and a set comprising concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising presenting top ranked concepts within each set.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said contexts are identified by using at least one of synonyms, hypernyms, hyponyms, and meronyms of said entity found in a thesaurus.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of profiling an entity, said method comprising:
identifying contexts associated with said entity, wherein said contexts are represented by a set of documents;
retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least one

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information source;

selecting features from the retrieved information to identify concepts associated with said entity within said each identified context; and

structuring the identified concepts within said each identified context by classifying said identified concepts into exactly four classification sets; and[.]]

ranking said identified concepts within each set,

wherein the contexts are identified by finding a set of the words or phrases that occur frequently with said entity and that mutually do not appear together in documents in the information source[.]], and

wherein said contexts are identified by using at least one of synonyms, hypernyms, hyponyms, and meronyms of said entity found in a thesaurus.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said contexts are identified by finding prominent nodes, that comprise said entity, in an ontology or a taxonomy.

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently Amended) A method of profiling an entity, said method comprising:
retrieving information from at least one information source using said entity as a search criteria;
clustering the retrieved information into entity-context pairs to identify contexts, wherein said contexts are represented by a set of documents;

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retrieving information corresponding to said entity and each identified context from at least one information source;

selecting features from the retrieved information to identify concepts associated with said entity within said each identified context;

classifying the identified concepts into exactly four classification sets with respect to each entity-context pair;

ranking said identified concepts within each set; and

presenting top ranked concepts within said each set.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said identified concepts are classified into at least one of a set comprising concepts that are exclusive to said entity, a set comprising concepts that are exclusive to the identified context, and a set comprising concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context.

28. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method of profiling an entity, said method comprising:

retrieving information from at least one information source using said entity as a search criteria;

clustering the retrieved information to identify contexts related to said entity, wherein said contexts are represented by a set of documents;

retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least one

information source;

selecting features from the information retrieved at both of the retrieving steps to identify concepts associated with said entity within each identified context; and

structuring the identified concepts within said each identified context by classifying said identified concepts into exactly four classification sets; and[[,]]

ranking said identified concepts within each set,

wherein the contexts are identified by finding a set of the words or phrases that occur frequently with said entity and that mutually do not appear together in documents in the information source[[.]], and

wherein said contexts are identified by finding prominent nodes, that comprise said entity, in an ontology or a taxonomy.

29. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 28, wherein in said method, the step of structuring the identified concepts is performed by classifying said identified concepts into at least one of a set comprising concepts that are exclusive to said entity, a set comprising concepts that are exclusive to the identified context, and a set comprising concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 29, wherein said method further comprises presenting top ranked concepts within each set.

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32. (Cancelled).

33. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 28, wherein said contexts are identified by using at least one of synonyms, hypernyms, hyponyms, and meronyms of said entity found in a thesaurus.

34. (Currently Amended) A system for profiling an entity, said system comprising:

~~a first unit operable~~ means for retrieving information from at least one information source using said entity as a search criteria;

~~a second unit operable~~ means for clustering the retrieved information into entity-context pairs in order to identify contexts related to said entity, wherein said contexts are represented by a set of documents;

~~a third unit operable~~ means for retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least one information source;

~~a fourth unit operable~~ means for selecting features from the retrieved information in order to identify concepts associated with said entity within said each identified context; ~~and~~

~~a fifth unit operable~~ means for structuring the identified concepts within said each identified context by classifying said identified concepts into exactly four classification sets;
and[.]]

means for ranking said identified concepts within each set,

wherein the contexts are identified by finding a set of the words or phrases that occur

frequently with said entity and that mutually do not appear together in documents in the information source[[]], and

wherein said contexts are identified by finding prominent nodes, that comprise said entity, in an ontology or a taxonomy.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34, wherein said ~~fifth-unit~~ means for structuring the identified concepts within said each identified context comprises:

a classifier operable for classifying said identified concepts into sets with respect to each entity-context pair; and

a component operable for ranking said identified concepts within each set.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35, further comprising a ~~sub-unit operable~~ means for presenting top ranked concepts within said each set.

37. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said four classification sets comprise:

a set of concepts that are exclusive to said entity and unrelated to said identified context;

a set of concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context and more frequently associated with said entity;

a set of concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context and more frequently associated with said identified context; and

a set of concepts that are exclusive to said identified context and unrelated to said entity.

38. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said four classification sets comprise:
- a set of concepts that are exclusive to said entity and unrelated to said identified context;
 - a set of concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context and more frequently associated with said entity;
 - a set of concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context and more frequently associated with said identified context; and
 - a set of concepts that are exclusive to said identified context and unrelated to said entity.
39. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said four classification sets comprise:
- a set of concepts that are exclusive to said entity and unrelated to said identified context;
 - a set of concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context and more frequently associated with said entity;
 - a set of concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context and more frequently associated with said identified context; and
 - a set of concepts that are exclusive to said identified context and unrelated to said entity.
40. (New) The program storage device of claim 28, wherein in said method, said four classification sets comprise:
- a set of concepts that are exclusive to said entity and unrelated to said identified context;
 - a set of concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context and more frequently associated with said entity;
 - a set of concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context and more

frequently associated with said identified context; and

a set of concepts that are exclusive to said identified context and unrelated to said entity.

41. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein said four classification sets comprise:

a set of concepts that are exclusive to said entity and unrelated to said identified context;

a set of concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context and more frequently associated with said entity;

a set of concepts that are common to both said entity and said identified context and more frequently associated with said identified context; and

a set of concepts that are exclusive to said identified context and unrelated to said entity.